

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7730

Petition of Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. and )  
Vermont Transco LLC (collectively known as )  
"VELCO"), for a certificate of public good, pursuant to )  
30 V.S.A. § 248, authorizing (1) the installation of two )  
variable shunt reactors at the Coolidge Substation in )  
Ludlow, Vermont; (2) installation of one variable shunt )  
reactor at the New Haven Substation; and (3) relocation )  
of an existing static shunt reactor from the New Haven )  
Substation to the Vernon Substation )

Entered: 10/14/2011

**CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD ISSUED**  
**PURSUANT TO 30 V.S.A. SECTION 248**

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the Public Service Board of the State of Vermont this day found and adjudged that:

1. The proposed installation by Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. and Vermont Transco LLC (collectively known as "VELCO"), of two variable shunt reactors at the Coolidge Substation in Ludlow, Vermont, the installation of one variable shunt reactor at the New Haven Substation in New Haven, Vermont, and the relocation of an existing static shunt reactor from the New Haven Substation to the Vernon Substation in Vernon, Vermont (the "Project"), will promote the general good of the State, subject to the following conditions:

(i) Construction, operation and maintenance of the project shall be in accordance with the plans and evidence submitted in this proceeding.

(ii) Prior to proceeding with construction, VELCO shall obtain all necessary permits and approvals. Construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed Project shall be in accordance with such permits and approvals, and with all other

applicable regulations, including those of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources ("ANR") and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

(iii) VELCO shall perform pre-construction noise studies and post-construction noise studies after it commissions the reactors at each substation for comparability of noise levels. VELCO shall mitigate noise levels if post-construction studies find substantially higher noise levels than currently exist at the sites. Prior to conducting the pre-construction and post-construction noise studies, VELCO's noise expert shall consult with the noise expert for the Department of Public Service ("Department") regarding the content and methodology of those studies. The studies shall be sufficient to assess the extent of tonal noise and the total noise from the substations. All post-construction noise studies shall be conducted after fall foliage season but prior to the first substantial snowfall so as to avoid the dampening affects of both the foliage and snow cover. VELCO shall report the results of its studies to both the Board and the Department once the studies are completed. In the event noise from operation of the Project significantly exceeds pre-construction levels, the Board retains the authority to require VELCO to initiate noise-suppression and mitigation techniques to reduce noise to pre-construction levels

(iv) Blasting associated with construction of the Project at the Coolidge Substation shall be minimized to the extent practicable and performed only during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, with no blasting allowed on state holidays.

(v) All blasting shall be carried out by licensed and certified blasting technicians. All blasting shall be performed in accordance with any and all applicable laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, U.S. Department of Interior Rules 816.61-68 and 817.61-68 and the Blasting Guidance Manual, Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of Interior, to

limit peak particle velocity and ground vibration to safe levels. Noise and air blast effects shall be limited through application of proper techniques and blasting mats shall be used where needed to limit the occurrence of flyrock.

(vi) Prior to performing any blasting at the Coolidge Substation, VELCO shall develop a blasting plan that includes pre-blast surveys of wells and structures within the prescribed blast radius of one-half mile and shall arrange for a public information session with surrounding landowners to address concerns related to blasting.

(vii) VELCO shall send a certified letter, with return receipt requested, to each property owner within one-half mile of the blast area that explains why pre- and post-blast surveys and well monitoring is being offered and provide the contact information for a person that is able to answer questions that property owners may have regarding the notice and surveys.

(viii) In the event surrounding landowners express concern regarding the impacts of blasting on wells or other structures on their property, VELCO shall perform evaluations to determine if any damage has occurred as a result of blasting activities and if so, remediate any such damage caused by blasting activities.

(ix) VELCO shall conduct both pre-construction and post-construction well-water tests within the one-half mile blast radius to test for lead contaminants and byproducts, for those property owners who request and consent to such an analysis. VELCO shall provide copies of the results of those tests to the Board, the Department, and ANR. VELCO shall also certify by letter to the Board and the Department that VELCO has complied with the terms of its blasting plan and, after blasting and mitigation, if any, are completed, VELCO shall report to the Board and the Department on the results of its blasting at the Coolidge site.

(x) Any water to be used for dust-suppression purposes must be brought in from off-site.

2. This Certificate of Public Good shall not be transferred without prior approval of the Board.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 14th day of October, 2011.

<u>s/James Volz</u>	)	
	)	PUBLIC SERVICE
	)	
<u>s/David C. Coen</u>	)	BOARD
	)	
	)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/John D. Burke</u>	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: October 14, 2011

ATTEST: s/Judith C. Whitney  
Deputy Clerk of the Board

*NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)*